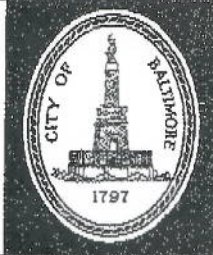


CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



FIRE DEPARTMENT

JAMES S. CLACK, Chief
401 E. Fayette Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

December 3, 2009

Ms. Hope D. Janke
Director
Public Safety Officers' Benefit Office
U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 7th Street NW
4th floor
Washington D.C. 20531

Dear Ms. Janke:

On November 13, 2006 Ms. Racheal M. Wilson entered the Baltimore City Fire Department as a Firefighter Paramedic Apprentice (FPA). Tragically, FPA Wilson was killed in a fire, in the performance of her duty, during a training exercise on February 9, 2007.

It is my understanding that there has been some question as to her ability or her authority to act as a sworn member of the Baltimore City Fire Department. Please be advised that in my role as the Chief of the Fire Department I can attest to and state the following; Under 28 CFR 32.3, FPA Wilson did, in fact, have the authority to act to her level of training and was operating in an official capacity as a member of the department. FPA Wilson did have the legal authority and responsibility to act, and to engage in emergency operations, up to her level of training, to include the suppression of fires,. While FPA Wilson did not participate *"in actual fire suppression in the course of responding to a live emergency"*, prior to her death the reason for that becomes one of scheduling and not ability or authority. We have, in the past, utilized FPA's from the training academy to perform during emergency operations and will continue to maintain that option, should the need arise.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions or need further clarification on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

James S. Clack
Chief Of Fire Department